At p. 16, replace line 14 with the following:

(g) gly-gly-gly-gly-gly-gly-gly (SEQ ID NO: 12);.

At p. 16, replace line 16 with the following:

(i) gly-gly-pro-gly-gly (SEQ ID NO: 13);.

At p. 16, replace lines 18 and 19 with the following:

(k) ser-gly-gly-gly-gly-gly-gly-gly-gly (SEQ ID NO: 14);.

At p. 16, replace lines 20 and 21 with the following:

(l) gly-gly-ser-gly-ser-gly-ala-gly-ser-gly-ser-gly-gly-gly-ser-gly-ser-gly-gly (SEQ ID NO: 15);.

In the claims:

Please cancel Claims 2, 17-20 and 22 without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Please cancel Claims 1, 3-16 and 21 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

23. A method of preventing or treating loss of bone mass resulting from lytic bone disease in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an OPG polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of a cancer therapy agent.

24. A method for preventing abnormal bone formation associated with cancer in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an OPG polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of a cancer therapy agent.

25. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a truncated polypeptide thereof.

26. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence from residues 22 to 401 inclusive as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a truncated polypeptide thereof.

27. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises a carboxy terminal truncation of part or all of amino acid residues 186-401 as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

28. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the OPG polypeptide of residues 22 to 401 as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) comprises a carboxy terminal truncation of part or all of amino acid residues 186-401.

29. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the OPG polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 22-194 inclusive or amino acid residues 22-201 inclusive as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

30. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the OPG polypeptide is an OPG fusion polypeptide.

31. The method of Claim 30 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide comprises a fusion of an Fc region to the N-terminal or C-terminal end of the OPG polypeptide.

32. The method of Claim 30 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide comprises an Fc region fused to amino acid residues 22-194 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

33. The method of Claim 30 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide comprises an Fc region fused to amino acid residues 22-201 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

34. The method of Claim 30 wherein the OPG fusion polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 5 (SEQ ID NO: 5) or in Figure 8 (SEQ ID NO: 8).

35. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the OPG polypeptide is administered prior to, concurrent with, or subsequent to administration of a cancer therapy agent.

36. The method of Claim 23 wherein lytic bone disease occurs in conjunction with cancer which has metastasized to bone.

37. The method of Claim 36 wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, prostate cancer, thyroid cancer, cancer of the kidney, lung cancer, esophogeal cancer, rectal cancer, bladder cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, liver cancer, cancer of the gastrointestinal tract, multiple myeloma, and lymphoma.

38. The method of Claims 23 or 24 wherein the cancer therapy agent is chemotherapy.

39. The method of Claim 38 wherein chemotherapy comprises anthracyclines, taxol, tamoxifene, doxorubicin, and 5-fluorouracil.

40. The method of Claims 23, 24 or 30 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of an OPG polypeptide or an OPG fusion polypeptide is from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg.